

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

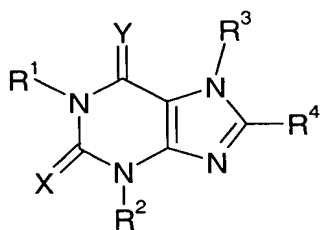
Listings of claims

Claims (1 – 10 cancelled)

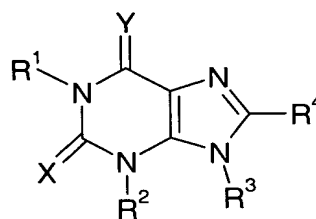
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Claims

Claim 11. A compound of formula (Ia) or (Ib)



or



(Ia)

(Ib)

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wherein:

one of X and Y represents S, and the other represents O or S;

R¹ represents hydrogen or C1 to 6 alkyl;

15 R² represents hydrogen or C1 to 6 alkyl; said alkyl group being optionally substituted by:

i) a saturated or partially unsaturated 3- to 7-membered ring optionally incorporating one or two heteroatoms selected independently from O, N and S, and optionally incorporating a carbonyl group; said ring being optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halogen, hydroxy, C1 to 6 alkoxy and C1 to 6 alkyl; said alkyl

20 being optionally further substituted by hydroxy or C1 to 6 alkoxy; or

ii) C1 to 6 alkoxy; or

iii) an aromatic ring selected from phenyl, furyl or thienyl; said aromatic ring being optionally further substituted by halogen, C1 to 6 alkyl or C1 to 6 alkoxy;

R³ represents hydrogen or C1 to 6 alkyl;

R⁴ represents halogen, C1 to 6 alkyl substituted by one or more halogen atoms, C1 to 6 alkoxy or C1 to 6 thioalkoxy; said alkoxy or thioalkoxy group being optionally further substituted by halogen or OH;
and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

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Claim 12. A compound according to Claim 11 wherein X represents S and Y represents O.

Claim 13. A compound according to Claim 11 wherein R³ represents H.

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Claim 14. A compound according to Claim 11 wherein R² represents optionally substituted C1 to 6 alkyl.

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Claim 15. A compound of formula (Ia) or (Ib), according to Claim 11, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use as a medicament.

Claim 16. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (Ia) or (Ib) according to Claim 11, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, optionally in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

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Claim 17. A method of treating, or reducing the risk of, diseases or conditions in which inhibition of the enzyme MPO is beneficial which comprises administering to a person suffering from or at risk of, said disease or condition, a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (Ia) or (Ib), as defined in Claim 11 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

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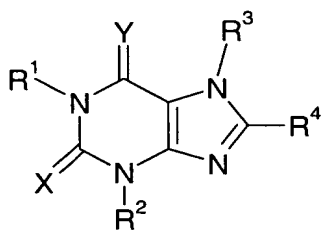
Claim 18. The use of a compound of formula (Ia) or (Ib) as defined in Claim 11 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament, for the treatment or prophylaxis of diseases or conditions in which inhibition of the enzyme MPO is beneficial.

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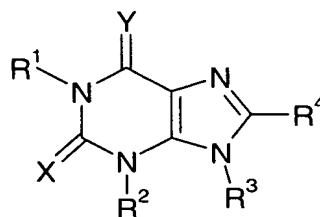
Claim 19. The use of a compound of formula (Ia) or (Ib) as defined in Claim 11 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament, for the treatment or prophylaxis of neuroinflammatory disorders.

5 Claim 20. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (Ia) or (Ib), as defined in Claim 11 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, enantiomer, diastereomer or racemate thereof, wherein the process comprises:

(a) reaction of a compound of formula (IIa) or (IIb)



or



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(IIa)

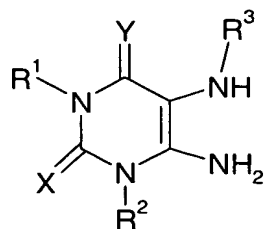
(IIb)

wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 are as defined in formula (Ia) or (Ib), X represents O or S and Y represents O;

15 with a sulphurising compound such as Lawesson's reagent or phosphorus pentasulphide; to give a corresponding compound wherein Y represents S; or

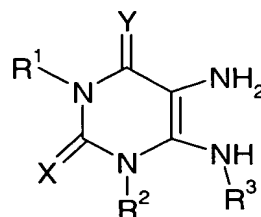
(b) reaction of a diamine of formula (IIIa) or (IIIb)

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(IIIa)

or



(IIIb)

wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , X and Y are as defined in formula (Ia) or (Ib);

5 with a trialkylorthoester or with an alpha-halo-substituted carboxylic acid or anhydride;

and where necessary converting the resultant compound of formula (Ia) or (Ib), or another salt thereof, into a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; or converting the resultant compound of formula (Ia) or (Ib) into a further compound of formula (Ia) or (Ib); and where desired

10 converting the resultant compound of formula (Ia) or (Ib) into an optical isomer thereof.